

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents and/or publications which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. While this Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such. A listing of patents and/or publications is shown on enclosed Form PTO-1449 and a copy of each patent and/or publication is also enclosed.

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement (37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1)). A copy of the communication is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner is requested to make the citations listed on the enclosed PTO 1449 of record in this application. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the initialed copy of form PTO 1449, indicating the references have been considered and made of record herein.

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USSN: 09/544,910

No fee is believed due as this statement is being submitted within three months of the mailing date of the enclosed foreign communication. However, if it is determined that fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815.

Respectfully submitted, BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: // 7 · 00

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